



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

SEMI-ANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON THE COUNTY INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attached is the status report of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan for September 2002 through January 2003. The most critical issues are summarized below.

The current Conditional Use Permit for Puente Hills Landfill will expire on October 31, 2003. The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the facility's owner/operator, requested a new CUP to provide for ten additional years of operation. The Regional Planning Commission conducted four public meetings; three of which were held in Hacienda Heights and averaged over 300 people per meeting. On December 18, 2002, the Regional Planning Commission approved a new CUP for the facility which incorporates a number of new requirements to address the concerns of the neighboring communities. Among other things, the CUP requires: (a) the Landfill's permanent closure not later than October 31, 2013, (b) a funding mechanism to provide for the enhancement of the neighboring communities, (c) efforts to promote the development of alternatives to landfilling, and (d) development of waste-by-rail.

The acquisition of the proposed Mesquite Regional Landfill (Imperial County) by the Sanitation Districts, which had been delayed for several years due to litigation, has been completed. The Landfill will ultimately be able to handle up to 20,000 tons per day of solid waste for approximately 100 years. The Sanitation Districts is moving forward with the design of the proposed Landfill and needed infrastructure.

A new CUP for the combined operation of the City and County portions of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is currently being drafted by the Department of Regional Planning in conjunction with this Department and others. Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc., the Landfill's owner/operator, has provided the traffic study required by the Department, which has been forwarded to the City of Los Angeles and Caltrans for comment. Additionally, BFI has filed an application with the City's Local Enforcement Agency for a Solid Waste Facility Permit

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to begin operation of the portion of the Landfill in the City. On January 15, the City's LEA found that BFI's application was complete and forwarded the application to the California Integrated Waste Management Board which has 60 days to take action. Lack of action by the Waste Board is statutorily considered concurrence. BFI has also filed a request with the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force for a Finding of Conformance with the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element which is currently being considered.

Waste Management, Inc., the owner/operator of Bradley Landfill, has filed an application for a revised SWFP with the City of Los Angeles' LEA in 2002. In October 2002, Department staff noticed that the revision would result in an increased elevation and increased capacity of approximately nine million cubic yards. The City's LEA and Waste Management, Inc., maintain a position that the increase is not an actual increase but rather addresses a "clerical error" in the previous permit and does not require a Finding of Conformance from the Task Force. As staff to the Task Force, the Department has advised Waste Management, Inc., that a Finding of Conformance is required. The increase in elevation has also raised concerns by neighboring communities and State Senator Richard Alarcon. On January 14, Senator Alarcon requested the Waste Board conduct a hearing in the community on the proposed expansion. The hearing has been scheduled for February 13, 2003, at the Sun Valley Middle School.

On October 5, 2002, the County Household Hazardous Waste Program was expanded to include collection of E-waste. However, to include collection of E-waste, the number of roundup events was reduced by 25 percent to offset the increase in costs. Subsequently, in January of this year the Sanitation Districts volunteered to subsidize the cost of E-waste collection for at least the first ten months of 2003 and an average of four events per month is being conducted.

The Waste Board has two new members: Mr. Carl Washington, a former State Assemblyman and Senior Deputy to Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, was appointed by Assembly Speaker Wesson and replaced Dan Eaton. Additionally, on January 15, 2003, Ms. Cheryl Peace, the spouse of Mr. Steve Peace (who is a former Senator and the current Director of the California Department of Finance), was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and fills the seat previously occupied by former Senator David Roberti.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office